(b) The dairy animals in these Institutes are kept for experimental purposes and are being maintained for research, education and teaching needs of the Institute and these are not commercial units.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Action Plan for Sugar Mills in Maharashtra

1054. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a review of sugar production and implementation of Sugar Policy at the apex level;

(b) if so, the details of the emerging trends in production, productivity, capacity utilisation, profitability, industrial sickness, labour problems, etc., State-wise;

(c) the details of action plan formulated for the current year to deal with the problem of industrial sickness in the co-operative sector in Maharashtra;

(d) whether the Government have received proposals from the States seeking financial support for undertaking execution of newly sanctioned projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) the details of proposals received for setting up new sugar units in co-operative sector by SC/ST communities from the State and reasons for its pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) The Government have set up a High Powered Committee—inter-alia, to suggest modifications, amendments or repeal of any existing laws and controls with a view to ensure a healthy growth and development of sugar industry, and building healthy relationship between farmers and the industry, to suggest ways and means to increase production and efficiency through modernisation so that sugar is available to the general public at reasonable prices. The Committee is required to submit its report to the Government by 14th September, 1997.

Purchase of Wireless Sets

1055. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 2,000 wireless sets which were issued to beat officers of Delhi Police have turned out to be totally ineffective;

(b) if so, the amount spent on purchase of these sets by Delhi Police alongwith the name of the manufacturer;

(c) whether at least 30 to 40 per cent of sets were not in working condition and majority of them never had listening range of even half kilometre; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to detect the officials responsible for the purchase of such faulty sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Delhi Police had in 1996 purchased 1800 hand held wireless sets at a cost of Rs. 1.78 crores (Excluding sales tax, etc.) on DGS&D rate contract from M/s. Punjab Wireless Systems Limited, Chandigarh. The sets conform to laid down specifications and have been working satisfactorily. The break down rate of these sets is within acceptable limits for such radios.

Import of Foodgrains

1056. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the money paid by the Government on the imports of various foodgrains to each country during 1995-96; and

(b) the details of the foodgrains imported since 1991, year-wise indicating the quantity and value in foreign exchange thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No import of foodgrains (wheat and rice) was made during the year 1995-96.

(b) The details of foodgrains (wheat and rice) imported since 1991 are as under:—

Year	Commodity	Country from which imported	Qty. in Lakh MT	Value (in crore Rs.)
1991-92	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1992-93	Wheat	Canada	10.27	525.29
		Australia	8.74	421.26
		USA	6.88	318.69
	Rice	Vietnam	0.72	46.11
			0.14	—
1993-94	Wheat	Australia	1.76	95.27
		USA	3.00	157.14
	Rice	Vietnam	0.56*	
1994-95	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1996-97	Wheat	Canada	Nil	Nil
		Australia	7.52	463.10
		Argentina	0.46	28.57
1997-98		Canada	2.66	179.00
		Australia	6.38	392.90
		Argentina	0.49	30.43

* Against payment of interest dues on old commodity loan outstanding against Vietnam.

Medicinal Plants

1057. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the priceless medicinal plants growing in UP hills are being smuggled out to countries abroad in disregard of forest laws; and

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to light in the last one year and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Under the current Export-Import Policy of the Govt. of India, 53 plants obtained from the wild are included in the prohibited list of exports. These include 45 plants which are predominantly of medicinal value. Some cases of smuggling of these plants, plant products and derivatives are detected from time to time.

(b) During the last one year (1996-97) 38 cases of attempted smuggling of medicinal plants have been detected and action taken against the offenders under the Customs Act, 1962. The States have also been advised not the freedly issue permits for the plants which are in the critical or endangered categories, and guard against their indiscriminate exploitation.